

**Foundation's Motto:**

# If You Love Children, Learn About Reye's

**Last in a Series**  
By Martin Toombs

**Dryden** — During the 11 days their son lay in a coma dying from Reye's Syndrome in the Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, Doris and Richard Flaville were aided by a couple whose son was recovering from the disease at the time.

Ray Vanderbush, son of Susan and Raymond Vanderbush of Walton, recovered from the illness. Joseph Flaville died Feb. 17, 1977.

The couples didn't know much about the rare disease which had attacked their sons, nor did they know there was a national foundation dedicated to fighting the killer of children.

But when Richard Flaville found out about the National Reye's Syndrome Foundation, he and his wife got together with the Vanderbushes and organized a New York State chapter of the organization in August 1979.

The group has 10 members, Flaville said, all parents of children who have been struck with Reye's Syndrome.

Reye's (pronounced RISE), although rare, is one of the top ten disease killers of children. Onset of the disease follows recovery from a viral infection. It causes swelling of the brain, which can cause brain damage or death. No cause has been identified, but a treatment procedure for the disease has cut fatalities from 50 to 25 percent during the past four years.

Flaville serves as president of the state chapter, and Vanderbush is vice president. Mrs. Flaville is the corresponding secretary.

Their first goal is to increase awareness of the disease, Flaville noted, emphasizing the need for parents and medical personnel to recognize the symptoms as being serious and requiring specialized care.

Flaville's motivation is

best described by a story he relates. While at church one Sunday, at Holy Cross, Dryden, he realized how badly he would feel if any of the children in the parish were stricken with Reye's and he hadn't provided the parents with the information to identify it. Although statistically he knew there probably wouldn't be any cases, he nevertheless arranged with Father Thomas Cleary, the pastor, to pass out leaflets describing Reye's after Masses one weekend.

Flaville emphasized the availability of members of the chapter to speak to any group wishing to learn about the disease. Last year the group distributed 4,000 pamphlets, he said.

Their efforts have been aided by the cooperation of American Legion posts. The Legion has adopted Reye's as an "awareness program" nationally for the past two years, he said, and has paid for a film on Reye's.

The state organization meets at the Holy Cross Parish Center, he noted, but he hopes to organize local

chapters around the state, so each area will have individuals able to provide information about Reye's.

Part of the reason for the lack of information available, Flaville noted, has been the fear by some health professionals that they would cause undue alarm over a disease which occurs as rarely as Reye's. Understandably, Flaville discredits their fears, pointing out the devastating results a lack of information can cause.

In addition to the educational efforts, the chapter also will provide support to parents whose child is being treated for the disease, Flaville said. Support of other parents is beneficial, he reported, noting the feeling of instant companionship he felt when meeting with a group of Reye's parents at a convention in Detroit.

The group also has had some success in fund raising, primarily through donations of other groups or through fund-raising events sponsored by groups such as American Legion posts. The money, he said, pays for local costs such as printing, and goes toward a nationally-sponsored research effort.

Flaville summed up his work for the chapter in a way which probably applies to other members as well: "I don't have anything more important to do."

Pamphlets about Reye's can be requested by contacting Flaville at PO Box 701, Dryden, N.Y. 13503.

In the Rochester area, Jean Aguglia of 420 Cooper St., Rochester, N.Y. 14617, 544-3618, can be contacted.

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## State Priorities Listed By Catholic Committee

**Albany** — The poor, the elderly, the mentally frail and disabled, quality education and the state economy are top priority issues this year for the Public Policy Committee of the State Catholic Conference, Bishop Howard J. Hubbard, chairman, has announced.

Bishop Hubbard of Albany succeeds Bishop Edward Head of Buffalo in the post.

"The Second Vatican Council," he said, "states that

the Christian is obliged to influence the society in which he lives and to respond to the needs of the community."

In New York State, Catholics comprise a third of the total population. Bishop Hubbard says he hopes that their views have some weight but noted, "Even if we represented only two percent of the state, we'd have an obligation to speak out on issues of basic human rights and needs."

Recent stands adopted by

the state's bishops include opposition to the death penalty and a call for an increase in the basic welfare grants to the poor.

"No legislator was speaking about welfare until we spoke out," Bishop Hubbard said. "The issue will be a priority one this year, too, since the allotment still is based on the 1972 standard of living."

Though the welfare issue reached the top of the legislative agenda last session, no bill was passed.



### Book Exhibit

Noted teacher, author, and speaker, Lola May, gives "All sides of problem solving," a workshop basically dealing with mathematics, to those who attended the diocesan sponsored Book Exhibit at Arena's Party House, Oct. 29. At right, teachers browse through the numerous text books that were on display. Publishers as well as representatives from book companies were on hand to discuss their particular texts.



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